In this reflection I will first reflect on my growth plan from semester one and finish with my new Growth Plan for this semester.

As thought, since my last Growth Plan I have taken on a new role as Assessment Co-coordinator where my main role is provide support for all the staff particularly the three new teachers who will be coming into our team. I am in charge of organising the reporting software and the implementation of the new English Online interview. I am finding this a rewarding and challenging experience as the three new teachers are only beginning at the start of term 4. It is important that they are mentored in the running of the software and feel comfortable using it. I therefore plan to run PD for these new staff members and will act as their mentor if they have any concerns. Not only do I need to support these staff but it is vital that all staff members at the school have their student data correctly uploaded into the software. A mentor has been described as: ‘to motivate, support, teach, counsel, promote and protect their mentees,’ (Lacey, 2004, p.18).

Initially I was also planning to learn lots about the Early Years curriculum as I am new to this area of the school. In respect to Literacy I have actively sought peer coaching to see how other Early Years teachers in the school run their Literacy sessions. I found this a valuable learning experience as I was able to couple what I learnt with practices that I already follow. Alongside this I have also undertaken professional reading to build my understanding of how the Early Years runs. In terms of Mathematics I have to be honest and say that I have not actively sought assistance as teaching Mathematics is one of my strengths however I have changed my practices substantially to cater for younger students. This is an area that I wish to grow and learn more about still.

Another area of personal growth was to have an influence on the new learning landscapes being planned at our school. I have found it very challenging to become involved in this area as there has been little discussion from the leaders of the school with the staff. It seems that the leaders have their own ideas and are wishing to go ahead with their thoughts. Although I am a member of the buildings and ground committee this still hasn’t meant that I have had an opportunity to voice my opinions and they haven’t met.

Finally, I was wishing to begin implementing student portfolios into the school. Since my last growth plan reflection I have run PD with the whole staff, sought external PD and begun goal setting with my Preps. I am extremely happy with how it is all going as the staff now have a greater understanding of what student portfolios are and what our expectations will be at our school. Some staff have begun experimenting with student goal setting and goal setting portfolios which is very exciting for me. We have also begun our journey with the parent community by running an expo style evening where the students presented their learning to their parents. This was an extremely successful evening with lots of exciting feedback from the parents. Roberts and Pruitt state, “A school learning community is one that promotes and values learning as an ongoing, active collaborative process with dynamic dialogue by teachers, students, staff, principal, parents and school community to improve the quality of learning and life within the school.”p13.(2)

Where to now:

I am wishing to continuing leading the school in the area of student led conferences and student portfolios. I feel my next step is to get all the staff on board with student goal setting. To do this I will be running more PD for the staff on the new E5 model paying particular attention to the dimensions of Elaborate and Evaluate. I feel able to speak to the staff as I have received a number of sessions on these dimensions myself and feel ready to impart my knowledge with the rest of the staff. These dimensions link beautifully with student goal setting and I think the staff will be excited about using a framework to guide their students. ‘It is through reflection that we distill, clarify and articulate our craft knowledge’ (Barth, 2005 p65).

In regards to my academic growth I wish to work hard on analyzing empirical articles which are relevant to my action research. I also wish to contribute more to the online sections of our Uni website and be more organized with my time. I find it difficult to balance taking on leadership roles, teaching the class and completing University requirements.

I am also wishing to step up and take on more leadership within the Prep team as our experienced leader has just gone on leave and will not be returning this year. I see this as an excellent opportunity to lead the team and continue developing my personal leadership skills.

Lastly, I want to meet with my mentor more often as it has been hard to find time when we are both free. My mentor has just started a mentoring course here at Monash and as part of the requirements she has to undertake seven sessions with me so I look forward to more learning and growth.

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